Campaign against use of Tobacco

279. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to states:

(a) whether Ministry of Health periodically conducts campaign against use of tobacco on Doordarshan;

(b) what are the details of such campaigns;

(c) whether this campaign is restricted to only some products; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Information about ill-effects of tobacco is disseminated on Doordarshan and through health education programmes from time to time.

Items for Mandatory display of Health Warning

280. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to states:

(a) what is the number of items that have been identified by Government to require a mandatory display of health warning;

(b) what are the details of such items;

(c) whether such a list is periodically up-dated; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) A number of items, in generic and specific terms, have been identified under various Acts including Drugs & Cosmetics Act/Rules and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act/Rules for display of mandatory health warnings. There is, however, no exhaustive list for reasons of generic descriptions.

Such items requiring display of Statutory warning are reveiwed from time to time.

Discussions with Tobacco Farmers

281. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the inhibitions prevailing which prevents Ministry of Health from calling tobacco farmers for discussions on various restrictions proposed to be imposed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): This Ministry had organised a National Conference on Tobacco on Health in New Delhi on 27-28 July, 1991 in which representatives from various Government and non-Government organisations including a few major tobacco growers, participated. In the conference all the tobacco related issues were analysed indepth.

Use of Tobacco by Women and Children

282. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that children and women are major consumers of non-smoking tobacco;

(b) whether any study has been done about its usage by poorer sections of society;

(c) whether any campaign has been launched to educate children and women on the harm of chewing tobacco; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.